AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The surgical needle according to claim 20 wherein the first set of the ~~at least three~~ four concave surfaces of the needle end are obliquely arranged relative to the longitudinal axis at a first angle.

3. (Currently Amended) The surgical needle according to claim 2 wherein the second set of the ~~at least three~~ four concave surfaces of the needle tip are obliquely arranged relative to the longitudinal axis at a second angle greater than the first angle.

Claims 4 – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 20 wherein the main shaft is curved along the longitudinal axis of the needle body.

11. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 20 wherein the main shaft includes means for attaching a suture.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 23 wherein the at least three non-linear surfaces of the first set define cutting edges along lines of intersection of adjacent surfaces thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 13 wherein the at least three non-linear surfaces of the second set define cutting edges along lines of intersection of adjacent surfaces thereof.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The surgical needle according to claim [[15]] 14 wherein the first set includes four non-linear surfaces.

17. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 16 wherein the second set includes four non-linear surfaces.

18. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 17 wherein the four non-linear surfaces of each of the first set and the second set are generally concave.

19. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle according to claim 23 wherein the at least three non-linear surfaces of each of the first set and the second set are generally concave.

20. (Currently Amended) A surgical needle, which comprises:

an elongated needle body defining a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal ends, the elongated needle body including a main shaft adjacent the proximal end, a needle end adjacent the main shaft defining a generally diamond-shape in cross-section along an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis and a maximum cross-sectional dimension greater than a corresponding maximum cross-sectional dimension of the main shaft, and a needle tip extending distally from the needle end defining a generally diamond-shape in cross-section along an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis and having an extreme needle point, the needle end including a first distinct set of ~~at least three~~ four generally concave intersecting surfaces extending between the needle tip and the main shaft, the needle tip including a second distinct set of ~~at least three~~ four generally concave intersecting surfaces extending between the needle point and the needle end to intersect the first set of concave surfaces of the needle end, and cutting edges disposed along each respective line of intersection of the first set of four surfaces of the needle end with the second set of four surfaces of the needle tip.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The surgical needle of ~~claim 8~~ claim 20 wherein the concave surfaces of the first set are symmetrically arranged about the longitudinal axis and wherein the concave surfaces of the second set are symmetrically arranged about the longitudinal axis.

23. (Currently Amended) A surgical needle, which comprises:

an elongated needle body defining a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal ends, the elongated needle body including a main shaft adjacent the proximal end, a first distinct set of at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces distally extending from the main shaft and a second distinct set of at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces contiguous with the first set of at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces and extending distally therefrom to an extreme distal needle point, the at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces of the first set and the at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces of the second set defining respective cutting edges along each line of intersection thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle of claim 23 wherein the at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces of the first set are symmetrically arranged about the longitudinal axis and wherein the at least three non-linear intersecting surfaces of the second set are symmetrically arranged about the longitudinal axis.

25. (Previously Presented) The surgical needle of claim 18 wherein the four non-linear surfaces of the first set are symmetrically arranged about the longitudinal axis and wherein

the four non-linear surfaces of the second set are symmetrically arranged about the longitudinal axis.